

Medical Board of Australia consultation on the funding of external doctors' health programs

Submission received from: **Name withheld**

Question 1: Is there a need for health programs?

Do you see any value in, or need for external health programs for medical students and/or doctors? Please explain your reasoning

Yes. Issues of confidentiality and concerns about stigma in seeking support from colleagues.

Question 2: Preferred model for external health programs

Of the existing models in Australia as described above, is there a model that you would prefer to see adopted nationally? Is there an alternative model that you would like to see adopted nationally?

I think more informal the better. Not a "designated" or employed person, but network.

Question 3: The role of the Board in funding external health programs

Do you believe that it is the role of the Board to fund external health programs?

No. However, it is definitely the role of the board to do something when I [REDACTED] tries to notify them of a dangerously impaired [REDACTED] colleague. This was done horrendously by AHPRA and you need to pull your socks up in doing the basics.

Question 4: Range of services provided by doctors' health programs

What services should be provided by doctors' health programs. In addition to the ones you have selected, what other services (if any) should be provided by doctors' health programs?

Telephone advice during office hours

Referral to expert practitioners for assessment and management

Develop and maintain a list of practitioners who are willing to treat colleagues

Education services for medical practitioners and medical students to raise awareness of health issues for the medical profession and to encourage practitioners and students to have a general practitioner

Programs to enhance the skills of medical practitioners who assess and manage the health of doctors

Case management and monitoring (including workplace monitoring) the progress of those who voluntarily enter into Case Management agreements (or similar) with the service

Question 5: Funding

How much of an increase in registration fees is acceptable to you, to fund doctors' health services?

Nil

Question 6: Other comments

Do you have any other comments or feedback about external health programs?